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**PORT OF LIVERPOOL**



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
TO THE  
**PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY**  
FOR THE YEAR

**1948**



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# PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY OF LIVERPOOL.

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REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1948.

BY THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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This is the 76th Annual Report on the work of the Liverpool Port Health Authority.

Circular 164/48 of the Ministry of Health, dated 15th October, 1948, directs that "The Authority will instruct their Medical Officer of Health to prepare his Annual Report for 1948 on the lines indicated in Memorandum 302/SA."

Memorandum 302/SA5 reads as follows:—

PORT HEALTH AND RIPARIAN AUTHORITIES.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

(1) Article 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, provides that a Medical Officer of Health shall, as soon as practicable after the 31st day of December in each year, make an Annual Report to the Authority up to the end of December on the sanitary circumstances, the sanitary administration, and the vital statistics of the district, containing, in addition to any such matters upon which he may consider it desirable to report, such information as may from time to time be required by the Minister.

(2) Article 27 (18) of the Regulations provides that the Sanitary Inspector shall, as soon as practicable after the 31st day of December in each year, furnish the Medical Officer of Health with a tabular statement containing the following particulars:—



- (a) The number and nature of inspections made by him during the year;
- (b) The number of notices served during the year, distinguishing statutory from informal notices;
- (c) The result of the service of such notices.

(3) The Records of the Authority should accordingly be kept in such form as to enable their Medical Officer of Health to prepare his report without delay at the close of each year. The Report should be in the form and sequence indicated herein—the lettering of the tables being adhered to.

(4) The Medical Officer of Health should include in his Report any comments which he may think desirable

- (1) under the several heads indicated herein, and
- (2) in regard to the need for any developments or extensions which, in his opinion, are necessary to render the work of the Authority fully efficient.

(5) In the case of those Ports which are approved under the Aliens Order, 1920, for the landing of aliens, the Medical Officer of Health should report generally upon the work of medical inspection of aliens.

The above-mentioned directions have been followed in so far as the information asked for is available.

## WATER SUPPLY.

Source of Water Supply for

### (a) THE PORT.

The water used in the port on the east side of the River Mersey is supplied by the Liverpool Corporation; on the west side of the river by the Birkenhead and Wallasey Corporations and the West Cheshire Water Board.

### (b) SHIPPING.

Vessels in dock are supplied by hose from hydrants. A constant check is kept by the Port Health Inspectors on the cleanliness and condition of ships' drinking water tanks. There are no water boats in use.

(c) AIRPORT.

Water supplied by the Liverpool Corporation. Aircraft are supplied from taps at the Airport.

## PORT HEALTH REGULATIONS, 1933 AND 1945.

The routine for carrying out the measures of the Port Health Regulations, 1933 and 1945, were fully detailed in the Annual Report for the years 1938 and 1947: these remain the same and consequently are omitted.

## MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

The port is divided into four districts. A Port Health Inspector, a rat searcher, and a rat catcher are allotted to each district: the rat searcher is responsible for searching for evidence of rats, and the rat catcher for obtaining samples of the rat population both in the ships and on the quays of their district. Each rodent operative is given specific tasks daily, to be carried out at set times, and the work is checked by cross visits from a Supervising Rodent Operative, and the Deputy Chief Port Health Inspector.

### STEPS TAKEN FOR THE DETECTION OF RODENT PLAGUE.

#### (a) *In Ships in Port.*

Every foreign-going ship entering the port is visited by a Port Health Inspector and a rat searcher as soon as possible after docking. Traps are set in all ships from "infected ports," and in all foreign-going ships when rat evidence is reported, or time in port permits.

Coastal shipping and barges are visited and searched periodically. All rats trapped are sent to the City Bacteriologist for examination. Any rat suspected of being plague infested, or any rat found dead without marks of violence is dipped in paraffin, specially labelled "Suspected Rat"—"Urgent," and taken immediately to the City Bacteriologist for examination.

#### (b) *On Quays, Wharves, Warehouses, etc., in the vicinity of the Port.*

Traps are set daily on quays and wharves, and in warehouses, canteens, stores, grain mills, etc., within the area of the port. All rats trapped are sent to the City Bacteriologist for examination.

## MEASURES TAKEN TO PREVENT THE PASSAGE OF RATS BETWEEN SHIP AND SHORE.

All foreign-going ships, whether arriving from abroad, or proceeding coastwise, are visited on arrival by a Port Health Inspector, and orders are given to fit rat guards on all moorings. Subsequent visits are made to see that the order has been carried out. Rat guards may be of sheet metal at least three feet in diameter, with sharp edged circumference, or the rope may be parcelled with canvas, or sacking coated with tar. The tar must be kept in a sticky condition. Ships' officers are advised not to leave cargo nets hanging between the ship and shore at night.

## MEASURES OF DERATISATION OF

### (a) *Ships.*

- (1) Routine trapping by Port Health Rat Catchers.
- (2) Trapping and/or poisoning by rat catchers employed by the Shipping Companies.
- (3) Fumigation with Hydro-Cyanic Acid gas or Sulphur Dioxide.

### (b) *Premises in vicinity of Docks and Quays.*

- (1) Routine trapping by Port Health Rat Catchers.
- (2) Routine trapping and poisoning by rat catchers employed by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, who set approximately 160 traps and 155 poison baits daily.
- (3) Trapping and poisoning by private rat-catching firms employed by Shipping Companies and Warehouse Owners.

## MEASURES TAKEN FOR THE DETECTION OF RAT PREVALENCE IN SHIPS.

- (1) Enquiries and search by Port Health Inspectors.
- (2) Routine searching by Port Health rat searchers, who search all foreign-going ships on arrival, and also make periodic searches during the discharge of cargo.
- (3) Any ship for which a Deratisation or Deratisation Exemption Certificate has been applied for, is searched throughout when the cargo spaces are empty.
- (4) Immediate investigation of reports from ships' masters and other officers, dock workers, and privately employed rat catchers.



## RAT PROOFING.

(a) To what extent are docks, wharves, warehouses, etc., rat proof?

The general condition is good, although considerable reconstruction is needed after bomb damage.

### (b) ACTION TAKEN TO EXTEND RAT PROOFING

#### (1) *In Ships.*

When temporary or permanent rat harbourage is discovered in ships, the Master and the Owners or Agents are informed and advised how to eliminate it: every effort is made to see that vessels are made reasonably rat proof before a Deratisation or Deratisation Exemption Certificate is issued.

#### (2) *On Shore.*

A constant survey is made of all shore premises, and no stores, gear, nor accumulations of refuse are allowed to remain undisturbed. Owners of old and useless gear are advised to dispose of it as soon as possible; refuse and sweepings are removed without delay; machinery and all wanted gear is stowed and raised at least 18 inches from the ground; chains, blocks, etc., are hung up; that temporary buildings are built on piers, runways concreted up, and stores, and enclosures made ratproof.

All mills and granaries on the dock estate were surveyed for rat infestation during the year, and in only one was there pronounced evidence of rat infestation. A notice was sent to the owners, enumerating the rat-proofing requirements, and since this work has been carried out, the infestation has been greatly reduced.

Defective drains were found in a factory which manufactures animal feeding stuffs, and broken and uneven setts outside the building caused water and blood to lodge. On advice from the Port Health Authority, the drains were repaired, properly fitting lids and manholes provided, and the outside ground made impervious by covering with concrete.

## INSPECTION OF DOCK PREMISES.

The following defects and nuisances were dealt with on dock premises:

A complete survey of all latrines and canteens on the dock estate was carried out in the early part of the year. In November, the National

Dock Labour Board requested the Liverpool group of the Board to set up a sub-committee, to report generally on dock amenities, with particular reference to latrines and canteens. The Senior Assistant Port Medical Officer was invited to serve on this committee, and the Health Committee gave the necessary permission.

A full and comprehensive report was submitted to the National Dock Labour Board at the end of November, showing the present position, and setting out plans for future development. The survey, carried out by officers of the Port Health Authority in the early part of the year, proved invaluable.

### Inspection of Dock Premises.

The following defects and nuisances were dealt with on dock premises:

Description of Premises	Defective or Inadequate					Structural Defects	Rat Harborage	Rat Infestation	Accumulated Refuse	Noxious Effluvia	Dirty Conditions	Verminous Conditions	Damp Conditions	Water Supply	Miscellaneous
	Lighting	Heating	Ventilation	W.C. Accommodation	Drainage										
Dock Sheds	—	—	—	3	—	—	6	1	43	—	2	1	—	—	—
Canteens ...	—	—	26	1	13	22	9	9	2	—	4	—	2	—	—
Factories ...	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	2	4	—	1	—	—	—
Quays ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	82	—	5	—	—	—	—
Roadways ...	—	—	—	—	13	—	1	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offices ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Railway Stations ...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warehouses	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mills ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	—	26	6	27	24	19	13	157	4	11	2	2	—	—



## REPATRIATES.

During the year, officers of the Port Health Authority took over the work of meeting and arranging the accommodation of non-regular Army families or assisted passage repatriates arriving in this country from abroad.

The Ministry of Health notify the Port Health Authority of the name of the ship, approximate date of arrival, and the names of non-regular army families or assisted passage repatriates expected. A Port Health Inspector visits the ship on arrival. He interviews all repatriates who have neither home nor relatives to go to, and obtains the following particulars:—Name, number in family, occupation, Regular or non-Regular Army, financial position, future plans, amount of baggage, and final address. The Inspector remains in the ship until he is satisfied that no non-military repatriate is left with nowhere to go. The Inspector arranges the necessary transport, and accompanies the repatriates who require temporary accommodation, to one or other of the two Ministry of Health hostels, which are situated at 51, Croxteth Road, Liverpool, and “Fernlea,” Quarry Road, Woolton, Liverpool.

The Ministry of Health are then informed of the number of repatriates in the hostels. When later advice is received from the Ministry, as to their future destination, the Inspector arranges railway warrants, and transport to the station; reserves compartments, and accompanies them to the station. For long journeys, packet lunches are provided. There is a fixed scale of charges for hostel accommodation, if the repatriate is able to pay.

The following table shows the number of repatriates dealt with by officers of the Authority since July:—

Date	Ship	From	Repatriates Interviewed	Accommodated			Accommodation not Required
				Men	Women	Children	
29 July	Empire Halladale	Port Said	5	1	1	3	—
6 Aug.	Samaria ...	Port Said	1	—	—	—	1
15 Aug.	Empire Test ...	Port Said	5	—	—	—	5
24 Aug.	Staffordshire ...	Port Said	2	—	—	—	2
3 Sep.	Empire Halladale	Port Said	2	—	—	—	2
29 Sep.	Empire Bure ...	Lagos	5	—	—	—	5
8 Oct.	Cheshire ...	Port Said	6	2	2	2	—
8 Oct.	Empire Brent ...	Australia via India	82	21	21	34	6
12 Oct.	Empress of Australia	Port Said	8	2	2	4	—
21 Nov.	„	Port Said & Cyprus	2	—	—	—	2
22 Dec.	Lancashire ...	Kure	7	—	—	—	7
31 Dec.	Orbita ...	Mombassa	3	1	2	—	—
TOTAL	12	—	128	27	28	43	30

### INFANTILE PARALYSIS.

s.s. “Empress of Scotland” arrived at Liverpool 15.2.48 and was boarded before docking by the Senior Assistant Port Medical Officer. One case of Infantile Paralysis was removed to the City Hospital, Fazakerley.

The Medical Officers of Health of destination of all passengers and crew were notified of the circumstances of the case. Disinfection of the hospital and quarters was carried out by Inspectors of the Port Health Authority.

### ANTHRAX.

On April 23rd, 1948, a dock labourer was admitted to Fazakerley Hospital suffering from Anthrax. Between April 5th and April 10th, he was engaged on the quay delivering cargo from the s.s. "Senator" at Queens Dock. Included in the cargo were

1,388 Bales Dry Hides,  
153 Bales Goatskins,  
140 Bales Sheepskins,  
16 Bales Kidskins, all from East Africa.

Gloves were provided for the cargo workers. No further cases occurred.

On September 15th, 1948, a dock worker was admitted to Fazakerley Hospital suffering from Anthrax. He was employed checking hides ex m.v. "Welsh Prince."

315 bales of hides were loaded at Mombassa, and landed at Liverpool.

Gloves and washing facilities were available for the workers. No further cases occurred.

### TYPHOID FEVER.

m.v. "Darro" arrived in the Mersey on January 29th, 1948, and was boarded before docking by the Senior Assistant Port Medical Officer. One male passenger, aged 16 years, was removed to hospital suffering from Typhoid Fever. The patient embarked at Buenos Aires 8.1.48, and was taken ill 21.1.48. No other cases occurred.

s.s. "Empress of Australia" arrived at Liverpool 14.1.48, and was boarded on arrival by the Assistant Port Medical Officer. One male member of the crew, who was apparently quite well when the vessel arrived, subsequently developed Typhoid Fever on 26.1.48, at his home. No other cases occurred.

m.v. "Georgic" arrived at Liverpool 16.5.48. One male passenger, a member of the Palestinian Police Force, was removed to the City Hospital, Fazakerley.

s.s. "Empress of Australia" arrived at Liverpool 28.5.48. One military passenger was removed to the City Hospital, Fazakerley, suffering from Enteric Fever.



s.s. "Clan Lamont" arrived at Liverpool 15.6.48. The master reported that two members of the crew had been landed to hospital at Beira, suffering from Enteric Fever. Both subsequently recovered and returned to the vessel.

s.s. "Franconia" arrived at Liverpool 13.6.48. One male passenger, aged 14 years, was admitted at Alder Hey Hospital, suffering from Enteric Fever.

s.s. "Samaria" arrived at Liverpool 5.8.48. One case of Enteric Fever, and two suspected cases, all military passengers, were removed to the City Hospital, Fazakerley.

### HYGIENE OF CREW SPACES.

During the year, careful attention has been paid to the inspection of crew spaces by the Port Health Inspectors, with regard to lighting, ventilation and heating, structural defects, dampness, rat harbourage, cleanliness and presence of vermin. The steady improvement in the standard of accommodation in new ships, previously reported, has been maintained. The members of the crew of these new ships appear to appreciate the improved conditions, and generally keep their quarters clean and in good condition.

The majority of nuisances found during the year were dirty and verminous quarters, usually due to cockroaches: only 25 vessels were found infected with bed bugs. Cockroaches are frequently found in dirty pantries, galleys, store-rooms and living quarters, particularly in older ships.

Scandinavian, Dutch and American ships are almost always kept in a clean condition; their quarters are, of course, occupied during their stay in port.

With regard to British ships, the quarters should be cleaned before the crew leaves the vessel, and the officer in charge should see that they remain locked during the stay in port.

Good co-operation has been maintained between officers of the Authority and the ship owners and agents, and most nuisances found were speedily abated. Whenever it was not practicable to abate a nuisance during the vessel's stay here, notification was sent to the Medical Officer of the Port Health Authority to which the vessel was proceeding.

### **CANAL BOATS. Public Health Act, 1936, Part X.**

A Port Health Inspector is engaged one day each week on the inspection of canal boats plying in the river or docks.

Number of boats inspected ... ..	444
Number of boats inspected for registration ...	Nil
Number of boats found with contraventions ...	37

### **EXAMINATION OF SHIPS CARRYING PILGRIMS.**

Six vessels were inspected and certified as complying with the requirements of the International Sanitary Convention of Paris, 1926, for the carriage of pilgrims.

### **PARROTS (PROHIBITION OF IMPORT) REGULATIONS, 1930.**

Twenty-two notices were issued during the year. Eleven birds of the parrot species were destroyed under the supervision of officers of the Port Health Authority.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELLFISH) REGULATIONS, 1934.**

No prosecutions under these Regulations were instituted during the year.

### **INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

No case of either Smallpox, Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, or Typhus was landed at Liverpool during the year, and none occurred in Liverpool-bound ships.

No Rodent Plague was discovered either in ships or among the rat population ashore.

The number of ships visited by the Assistant Port Medical Officers was 1,050, of which 886 were from infected ports. Of the vessels boarded in the river 128 were bound for Manchester.

### **PORT HEALTH HOSPITAL.**

On July 5th, the Port Health Hospital at New Ferry was taken from the Port Health Committee, and is now administered by the Regional Hospital Board, though the Port Medical Officers will still continue as its Medical Officers. It may be of some interest to call to mind the services this hospital has performed for the citizens of Liverpool.



It was in 1873 that Dr. Trench, Medical Officer of Health of Liverpool, recommended the building of a hospital near the quarantine anchoring ground, for the reception of cases of cholera. The last epidemic of cholera had occurred in 1866, and there was every likelihood of its recurrence. Dr. Trench was strongly opposed to the idea of a hospital ship, and placed before the Committee a plan of a temporary hospital of iron and wood.

He considered that the hospital should be restricted to cases of "cholera and choleraic diarrhoea, and that all other cases of infectious disease such as Typhus, Smallpox, Scarlet Fever, etc., where the disease is endemic and common to the country, and not included in the Quarantine Code, should be treated as they have hitherto been dealt with, viz., landed under the inspection of Sanitary Officers and carried in special carriages for the purpose, to the workhouse and parochial hospitals."

In 1874, the Local Government Board was sent a petition to allow the ground to be acquired, and this was bought the following year. After an enquiry by the Board, the spending of £15,000 was sanctioned. The hospital was built and opened in 1877.

In the first year, the importance of such a hospital was shown by the arrival of ships with three cases of cholera.

Two years later the hospital was put to another use when scarlet fever broke out in the "Indefatigable," a training ship lying in the river. Scarlet fever at that time was a very serious disease, and it was only prompt isolation and treatment in the hospital that, in the words of Dr. Stopford Taylor, "were the means of protecting the health and lives of 230 boys who were on board at that time."

In 1884, a cholera outbreak appeared in Marseilles, and in July of that year, the s.s. "St. Dunstan" reported that on the voyage from that port, there had occurred two deaths from cholera. The disease spread throughout the crew who were removed to the hospital under the charge of Dr. Hope, who had originally volunteered to stay aboard the ship to keep up the morale of the crew.

The s.v. "Tarapaca," also from Marseilles, reported deaths from cholera on the voyage. The sick men were taken for treatment to New Ferry.



In 1890, scarlet fever again broke out in the "Indefatigable," but although the hospital was used for isolation, two cases out of twelve died, and four years later the hospital received boys from the reformatory ship "Clarence," in which there was an outbreak of smallpox.

In 1893 Dr. Hope was able to report that "the hospital is now fully equipped for the reception of cholera patients, and a new laundry has recently been built, and improvements and additions made in connection with other hospital accessories."

At the end of the century, bubonic plague was spreading, from its base in India and China, throughout the world. By 1899 it had reached Oporto, and the following year, occurred in places as far apart as Hong Kong, Buenos Aires, San Francisco, Glasgow, Cape Town and Sydney.

In this year the s.s. "Highland Mary" arrived in the port from Las Palmas and Buenos Aires. The captain reported that many rats had died on the voyage, and one seaman was removed to New Ferry, with plague. Throughout these years a number of cases suspected of plague were detained in the hospital until suspicion had been removed.

The continued threat of plague, which broke out again in Glasgow in 1901, and following which several cases were detected in Liverpool, led to the enlargement of the Port Hospital. It was provided with a "permanent pavilion with suitable laundry, disinfecting apparatus, and nurses' quarters."

Plague appeared in Liverpool in 1905, when the s.s. "Crewe Hall," from Rangoon, reported in dock that a lascar had a severe cold. He was found to be dying of plague and was taken off to the hospital together with the contacts. The s.s. "Oropesa," from South America, arrived the same year with three cases of plague that were treated at New Ferry.

In 1908, plague was still prevalent throughout the world—the Azores being the nearest infected centre. Two cases were taken to hospital in Liverpool—a man and wife from a barge in the docks. The cause of their infection was never discovered, but some old rags were suspected.

Cholera threatened the port seriously for the last time in 1905 when emigrants from the Baltic were passing through on their way to America, but no cases occurred, and since that date the primary work of the hospital as a cholera hospital may be said to be finished.

Plague also has become much less prevalent, though it was not until 1926 that a watchman at the docks provided it with its last case of plague.

With the disappearance of the major diseases, plague, cholera and yellow fever, smallpox became the most serious danger. The disease itself was becoming less common and less virulent in this country, and so it became all the more important to prevent fresh importations from abroad. From the beginning of the century onwards, smallpox figures more and more in the records, and its rôle as a smallpox hospital was shown by the admittance of cases from neighbouring boroughs.

However, in 1914, a disease called Beri-beri, now known to be due to lack of vitamin B, was occurring in sailing ships on long voyages. Sixteen cases of this disease were treated in the Port Hospital by feeding them on fresh vegetables and fish. All the men recovered; but pigeons, that were fed on the food provided in the ship, all succumbed.

The years 1928, 1929 and 1930 provided the greatest numbers of patients. Smallpox of a mild type broke out in the districts of Ellesmere Port and Skelmersdale, and 197 cases were admitted to the hospital.

The last epidemic of smallpox in Liverpool in 1946, arose from cases arriving by sea, and was of a very severe type. Among the thirty cases there were nine deaths. The facilities of the hospital were invaluable in preventing the spread of this dangerous disease.

Since 1901, the records show that 678 cases of smallpox, 75 cases of typhus, 17 cases of plague, three cases of yellow fever, one case of cholera, and 21 cases of leprosy have been isolated and treated at New Ferry—a record that proves the foresight of those responsible for its building and maintenance.

### **FOOD INSPECTION.**

Throughout the year 1948, the inspection of foodstuffs has been carried out in accordance with the Imported Food Regulations.

On 1st March, 1948, the Transfer of Functions (Food and Drugs) Order, 1948, came into force, transferring the powers of the Ministry of Health under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 8 (to make Regulations relating to the importation, storage, preparation and sale of food), to the Minister of Health and the Minister of Food, jointly.



Following this, an amendment to the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, came into force on 1st May, 1948. The first schedule of the original Regulations (C), which prohibited the importation of overseas meat from which a lymphatic gland, except a gland necessarily removed in preparing the meat, had been taken out, is now amended so as not to include mutton and lamb in the prohibition.

At about the same time, Memorandum 62B—Foods, was received, giving detailed instructions for the inspection of carcasses of mutton and lamb showing evidence of having been infected with C. Lymphadenitis, and the action to be taken.

Importations of refrigerated meats for the year have been considerably reduced in comparison with recent years, noticeably from South America, but most other foods have arrived in greater variety.

Temporary difficulties have been experienced with the post-war re-opening of trade with certain countries, etc., and the requirements of the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937/48, which require that overseas meat and meat products, imported into this country, should bear a recognised official certificate.

Several consignments of canned meats were landed from the Netherlands without any official certificate being attached as required. These consignments were detained, and the matter was taken up between the Medical Officer of Health and the Netherlands Consul at Liverpool, and rectified.

Consignments of salted hog casings from Hong Kong, not bearing the recognised official certificate, but having a veterinary certificate issued by the Urban Council of Hong Kong, signed by the Chairman of the Council and the Senior Veterinary Officer, have been landed. This matter was taken up by the Medical Officer of Health with the Ministry. In the meantime, the consignments have been admitted as a temporary measure, as no complaint could be made against the commodity otherwise.

Consignments of salted sheep and lamb casings have also been landed from Pakistan, without the recognised official certificate, some with a covering bulk veterinary certificate, some without any veterinary certificate at all. The consignments not having any veterinary certificates have been exported.



### Caseous Lymphadenitis.

Consignments of mutton and lamb which have been landed since 1st May, 1948, have been dealt with as required by the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, as amended in 1948, and Memorandum 62 B. Foods.

S.S. "PRINCESA," @ PATAGONIA—5.5.48.

Landed various consignments of mutton and lamb. One consignment, consisting of 11,979 carcasses of mutton, was fully examined, and 4.28 per cent. of the total was found to be affected.

S.S. "TEVIOT," @ PATAGONIA—5.7.47.

Landed consignments of mutton and lamb carcasses, all classified as "European Quality" and marked "C." These were fully examined as follows:—

7,243 Carcasses Wethers	... 7.1 per cent. affected.
2,961 Carcasses Ewes	... 5.6 per cent. affected.
47 Carcasses Hoggets	... 4.2 per cent. affected.
5,304 Carcasses Lambs	... 7.1 per cent. affected.

On examination, many of the carcasses in these consignments were found to have one or more lymphatic glands taken out before shipment; and in some cases, where glands had been taken out, other glands in the same carcasses were found to be diseased.

These shipments all bore the recognised official certificate for Argentine.

### Onchocerciasis (Worm Nodules).

Briskets of beef from Australia, boneless and bone in, have continued to arrive, and have been subjected to detailed examinations. The incidence of onchocerciasis was as high as 91 per cent. in one small consignment.

A consignment of 574 forequarters of beef was examined: the briskets were cut away, and fully examined after being partially defrosted; 77 per cent. were found to be affected.

### Metallic Contamination.

Special attention was given to consignments of dehydrated onion powder, from Egypt: many samples were taken and submitted to the City Analyst. Contamination was established in varying degrees, chiefly lead, copper and zinc.

One sample was reported to have minute metallic globules present, and the equivalent of 15 to 30 parts per million of lead.

Where excessive contamination was established, the consignment was exported.

A consignment of 930 cases of canned mandarin oranges, from Japan, was sampled and submitted to the City Analyst, who certified that tin, equivalent to  $7\frac{3}{4}$  grains per pound, was present.

This consignment was destroyed.

### Unsound and Damaged Cargoes.

A variety of unsound and damaged cargoes arrived during the year:—

s.s. "ARAGON," @ TURKEY—JUNE, 1948.

850 out of a consignment of 4,750 cases of shell eggs were examined in Liverpool, and 23 per cent. were found to be unsound. The balance was allowed to go forward to various depots outside, for full examination under the supervision of local Medical Officers of Health.

s.s. "PACIFIC FORTUNE," @ GIBRALTAR—JULY, 1948.

Two consignments, consisting of 894 hindquarters of beef, produce of Argentine, were landed and fully examined. These were found to be from 50 to 55 per cent. affected with "bone taint."

s.s. "WILLESDEN," @ AUSTRALIA—JULY, 1948.

This ship had been on fire at sea, and returned to Australia before continuing to this country. About 137,000 bags of flour, all affected by water, smoke, vermin, and decomposition, were landed and allocated for animal food or industrial uses.

s.s. "KAIPARA," @ AUSTRALIA—AUGUST, 1948.

Landed 4,682 crates of frozen rabbits and hares, in a partly-decomposing condition: these were all sent to a local cold stores for further

examination. From these, 3,185 crates were selected, and allowed to go forward for examination at destinations under the supervision of local Medical Officers of Health. The balance of 1,497 crates was fully examined at Liverpool, and from these, 910 crates were rejected for decomposition, and sent for industrial purposes.

s.s. "BACTRIA," @ TURKEY, 1948.

From No. 3 hatch, 1,669 cartons and boxes of sultanas were landed, and found to be damaged with a fine, manufactured tobacco dust, which had been carried in the same hatch on the voyage. The dust had percolated through the crevices and openings in the containers. These packages of sultanas were all taken to a local warehouse specially suited to handle dried fruits, etc., and there reconditioned by washing in running water under pressure, and finally oven dried.

No fruit was rejected from this consignment.

s.s. "PORT HALIFAX," @ AUSTRALIA—NOVEMBER, 1948.

A consignment of 749 cases of canned apple juice was landed, badly stained from its own contents. On examination, it was found that the tins had a code mark, embossed on their caps. Apparently, the embossing machine had been maladjusted and instead of embossing, it had, in many cases, cut the tins.

The consignment was fully examined, and about 15 per cent. of the tins rejected.



Amount of Shipping Entering the Port during the Year 1948.

CLASS OF VESSELS	Number (1)	Tonnage (2)	Number Inspected		Number reported to be defective (5)	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied (6)	Number of Vessels on which defects were found and reported to Ministry of Transport Surveyors (7)	Number of Vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage, infectious disease on board (8)
			By the Medical Officer (3)	By the Sanitary Inspector (4)				
SAILING FOREIGN—								
Steamers ...	4,385	9,337,135	1,050	2,936	596	565	—	197
Motor ...				1,172	184	180	—	
Sailing ...				1	—	—	—	
Fishing ...				—	—	—	—	
TOTAL FOREIGN...	4,385	9,337,135	1,050	4,109	780	745	—	197
SAILING COASTWISE—								
Steamers ...	5,811	2,459,457	—	266	17	11	—	7
Motor ...	1,097	891,960	—	145	4	1	—	
Sailing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Fishing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTAL COASTWISE	6,908	3,351,417	—	411	21	12	—	7
TOTAL FOREIGN AND COASTWISE	11,293	12,688,552	1,050	4,520	801	757	—	204

Figures in columns 1 and 2 supplied by H.M. Collector of Customs for this Port.

### Character of Trade of Port.

The Port of Liverpool trades with all parts of the world, and almost every conceivable kind of cargo is carried by ships arriving in the Mersey.

#### *Passenger Traffic during 1948.*

No. of Passengers ...	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	Tourist Class.	Transmigrants.
Inwards ... ..	26,621	10,453	2,458	16,219	555
Outwards ... ..	31,843	6,341	986	15,224	990

### MALARIA.

During the year, 261 new cases of malarial fever were notified, which were either landed in Liverpool or had recovered abroad, in 90 vessels.

The names and addresses of the patients, with particulars of the treatment given, together with the movements of the vessels, were forwarded to the Ministry of Health.

## Infectious Diseases.

The number of cases of infectious disease *landed from vessels* arriving in the Port of Liverpool and those occurring in Liverpool bound ships which were disposed of *prior to the arrival of the* vessels at the port, are shown in the following tables:—

### Cases of infectious sickness landed from vessels.

Diseases.	No. of Cases during 1948.		No. of Vessels concerned.	Average No. of cases in previous 5 yrs
	Passengers.	Crew.		
Plague ... ..	—	—	—	—
Cholera ... ..	—	—	—	—
Yellow Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—	1
Typhus Fever ... ..	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—	—	20
Enteric Fever ... ..	9	2	9	7
Diphtheria ... ..	—	2	2	18
Measles and German Measles	95	5	12	44
Chickenpox ... ..	5	9	12	31
Tuberculosis... ..	53	15	46	324
Pneumonia ... ..	1	5	6	23
Dysentery ... ..	3	3	6	18
Malaria ... ..	23	22	32	69
Mumps ... ..	2	2	4	40
Whooping Cough ... ..	2	—	1	—
Poliomyelitis ... ..	1	—	1	3
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	2
	194	65	131	601



**Cases of infectious sickness occurring on vessels during the voyage  
but disposed of prior to arrival.**

Diseases.	No. of cases during 1948.		No. of vessels concerned.	Average No. of cases in previous 5 yrs
	Passengers.	Crew.		
Plague ... ..	—	—	—	—
Cholera ... ..	—	—	—	—
Yellow Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—	6
Typhus Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—	—	2
Enteric Fever ... ..	—	2	1	6
Diphtheria ... ..	1	1	2	3
Measles and German Measles	28	1	16	33
Chickenpox ... ..	11	6	7	13
Tuberculosis... ..	3	5	8	24
Pneumonia ... ..	8	2	7	9
Malaria ... ..	77	139	58	269
Mumps ... ..	5	1	4	6
Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	1	1	3
Dysentery ... ..	2	6	5	23
	135	164	109	427

There were 224 cases of venereal disease reported on board 112 vessels arriving in the port during the year. These were referred, where circumstances required, for treatment at the Seamen's Dispensary.

### **DANGEROUS DRUGS.**

During the year 86 certificates authorising the purchase of scheduled dangerous drugs were issued under the Dangerous Drugs (No. 3 Regulation), 1923, amending the Dangerous Drugs Regulations, 1921, regulation 15 of which is as follows:—

“If a foreign ship in any port in Great Britain requires to obtain a supply of any of the drugs in order to complete the necessary equipment of the ship, the Master of the ship is authorised to purchase and be in possession of such quantity of any of the drugs as may be certified by the Medical Officer of Health of the Port where the ship is (or in his absence by the Assistant Medical Officer of Health of the Port) to be necessary for the purpose, the quantity not to exceed what is required for the use of the ship until it reaches its home port. The certificate given by the Medical Officer or Assistant Medical Officer of Health of the Port shall be marked by the supplier with the date of the supply and shall be retained by him and kept for inspection.”

### **INTERNATIONAL SANITARY CONVENTION OF PARIS, 1926.**

#### **ARTICLE 28.**

During the year, 195 fumigations were carried out for the purpose of obtaining deratisation certificates and in addition 454 vessels were granted deratisation exemption certificates, making a total of 649 examinations under Article 28.

Measures of Rat Destruction on Plague-“ Infected ” or “ Suspected ” Vessels or on vessels from Plague-Infected Ports during the year 1948.

Total Vessels Arriving	No. Fumigated with SO <sub>2</sub>	No. of Rats Killed	No. Fumigated with HCN	No. of Rats Killed	No. Fumigated with both HCN & SO <sub>2</sub>	No. of Rats Killed	No. of such vessels on which Trapping, etc., was employed	No. of Rats Killed	No. of such vessels on which measures of Rat Destruction were not carried out
886*	2	4 rats	96	899 rats 244 mice	Nil	Nil	772	388 rats 65 mice	82

\* Including 128 vessels bound for Manchester.

Deratisation Certificates and Reratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the year 1948.

Net Tonnage	No. of Ships	Number of Deratisation Certificates issued after Fumigation with			After Trapping, Poisoning, etc.	TOTAL	No. of Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued	Total Certificates issued
		H.C.N.	Sulphur	H.C.N. and Sulphur				
Up to 300 Tons ...	11	—	—	—	—	—	5	11
From 301 to 1,000 Tons ...	42	4	—	—	—	4	38	42
From 1,001 to 3,000 Tons ...	124	34	1	—	—	35	89	124
From 3,001 to 10,000 Tons ...	456	140	7	—	—	147	309	456
Over 10,000 Tons ...	16	9	—	—	—	9	7	16
TOTALS ...	649	187	8	—	—	195	454	649



Number and species of rats caught, in the City and Port of Liverpool during the year 1948.

1948	Warehouses		Sewers		Other Places		Total		Ships		Quays		Other Sources		Total	
	Black	Brown	Black	Brown	Black	Brown	Black	Brown	Black	Brown	Black	Brown	Black	Brown	Black	Brown
January ...	91	210	—	902	2	67	93	1,179	317	—	90	6	67	52	474	58
February ...	115	241	—	692	—	32	115	965	174	—	72	10	35	16	281	26
March ...	135	136	—	731	—	76	135	943	226	—	77	13	39	20	342	33
April ...	157	201	—	806	—	63	157	1,070	182	—	63	11	43	31	288	42
May ...	134	205	—	687	—	66	134	958	302	—	65	23	72	25	439	48
June ...	161	266	—	714	5	55	166	1,035	151	—	52	24	35	13	238	37
July ...	166	197	—	693	4	54	170	944	378	3	81	25	30	43	489	71
August ...	137	236	—	583	1	39	138	858	265	—	35	6	29	45	329	51
September ...	254	352	—	733	8	57	262	1,142	313	—	64	8	58	16	435	24
October ...	425	240	—	802	1	41	426	1,083	300	—	58	8	61	12	419	20
November ...	386	203	—	821	—	60	386	1,084	205	—	85	12	51	22	341	34
December ...	210	199	—	664	2	22	212	885	291	—	74	10	27	5	392	15
TOTAL ...	2,371	2,686	—	8,828	23	632	2,394	12,146	3,104	3	816	156	547	300	4,467	459

Number and Species of Rats examined or destroyed in the City and Port of Liverpool during the year 1948.

1948.	Examined (City).		Destroyed (City).		Examined (Port).		Destroyed (Port).		Total Caught
	Black.	Brown.	Black.	Brown.	Black.	Brown.	Black.	Brown.	City and Port.
									Black and Brown.
January ... ..	15	123	78	1,056	179	51	295	7	1,804
February ... ..	14	114	101	851	144	26	137	—	1,387
March ... ..	14	105	121	838	161	32	181	1	1,453
April ... ..	20	172	137	898	154	39	134	3	1,557
May ... ..	16	113	118	845	181	47	258	1	1,579
June ... ..	19	115	147	920	128	37	110	—	1,476
July ... ..	16	90	154	854	168	69	321	2	1,674
August ... ..	13	102	125	756	117	50	212	1	1,376
September ... ..	24	111	238	1,031	162	22	273	2	1,863
October ... ..	25	101	401	982	178	19	241	1	1,948
November ... ..	29	124	357	960	155	31	186	3	1,845
December ... ..	10	91	202	794	115	14	277	1	1,504
TOTAL ... ..	215	1,361	2,179	10,785	1,842	437	2,625	22	19,466

## Rats destroyed during 1948.

(1) In vessels :—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Black ... ..	317	174	226	182	302	151	378	265	313	300	205	291	3,104
Brown ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Species not recorded ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rats examined ...	50	42	62	56	49	42	65	57	52	73	34	32	614
Rats found infected with Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses :—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Black ... ..	157	107	116	106	137	87	111	64	122	119	136	101	1,363
Brown ... ..	58	26	33	42	48	37	68	51	24	20	34	15	456
Species not recorded ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rats examined ...	180	128	131	137	179	123	172	110	132	124	152	97	1,665
Rats found infected with Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Number of Mice destroyed in vessels ... .. 468  
 Do. do. do. on quays ... .. 234  
 Do. do. examined from vessels and quays ... .. 282



The combined returns of all rats and mice caught and destroyed by shipping firms employing their own rat-catchers, by rat catching companies, and by the Public Health Authority, during the year 1948, are as follows:—

	Rats	Mice	Rats	Mice
PORT—				
In vessels ... ..	3,926	468		
On quays ... ..	1,819	234		
			5,745	702
CITY—				
In warehouses ... ..	5,057	2,767		
In sewers and from other sources ...	9,483	806		
			14,540	3,573
		TOTAL ...	20,285	4,275

Number of Visits to <b>Vessels</b> by Rat Catchers...	...	...	6,100
Do. do. do. Rat Searchers	...	...	4,678
Do. do. <b>Quays, Sheds, etc.</b> , by Inspectors	...	...	3,589
Do. do. do. do. Rat Searchers	...	...	2,225
Do. do. do. do. Rat Catchers...	...	...	14,420

# Inspection of Shipping.

Year 1948.

Nationality							Visits	Re-visits	Total
British	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,657	960	4,617
Norwegian	...	...	...	...	...	...	213	25	238
American	...	...	...	...	...	...	140	15	155
Dutch	...	...	...	...	...	...	134	5	139
Swedish	...	...	...	...	...	...	111	4	115
Danish	...	...	...	...	...	...	75	4	79
Greek	...	...	...	...	...	...	31	8	39
Spanish	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	8	32
Finnish	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	2	23
Panama	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	1	22
Belgian	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	3	21
German	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	—	16
Russian	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	—	13
Polish	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	1	9
Italian	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	2	9
Egyptian	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	—	8
French	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	1	8
Yugo-Slavian	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
Uruguay...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Brazilian...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
Argentine	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
Icelandic...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Portuguese]	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Total							4,520	1,042	5,562

## Summary of Insanitary Conditions during the year 1948.

Class of Vessels	Number Inspected	Number on which Nuisances were found	Per cent.
SAILING FOREIGN—			
Steamers ... ..	2,936	596	20·3
Motor ... ..	1,172	184	15·7
Sailing ... ..	1	—	—
Total ... ..	4,109	780	18·98
SAILING COASTWISE—			
Steamers ... ..	266	17	6·4
Motor ... ..	145	4	2·76
Sailing ... ..	—	—	—
Total ... ..	411	21	5·11

Nationality	Number Inspected.	Number on which Nuisances were found
British ... ..	3,657	748
Foreign ... ..	863	53
Total ... ..	4,520	801

## Nuisances found in Vessels.

Defects of Original Construction (a)	Per cent. of Total Defects	Structural Defects through wear and tear (b)	Per cent. of Total Defects	Dirt, and other conditions prejudicial to health (c)	Per cent. of Total Defects
37	0·43	345	4·03	8,180	95·54



### MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS.

The following table gives the total number of aliens arriving in the Port of Liverpool during 1948, and the number of each of the categories under which alien passengers are classified by the Immigration Department of the Home Office :—

Total aliens	Transmigrants	Residents returning	In transit
12,022	Nil	203	1,879
Visitors of 6 months or less		Diplomats and persons on Foreign Govt. Missions	Seamen
On holiday, tourist, &c.	On Business		
4,762	291	126	81
Seamen under Contract to join ships in British Waters		Ministry of Labour Permits	Other Aliens
278		131	4,271

Total number of vessels carrying Alien passengers	...	1,726
Number of Vessels dealt with by the Medical Inspector...		172
Number of Aircraft dealt with by the Medical Inspector		6

**Medical Inspection of Aliens. Year 1948.**

	TOTAL.	Number Inspected by the Medical Inspector.	Number subjected to detailed examination by the Medical Inspector.	CERTIFICATES ISSUED					
				Lunatic Idiot or M.D.	Undesirable for medical reasons.	Physically incapacitated.	Suffering from acute infectious disease.	Landing necessary for adequate medical examination.	Transmi-grants.
(a) Total number of Aliens landing at the Port ...	12,022	6,306	104	1	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Aliens refused permission to land by Immigration Officer	78	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Transmigrants ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Aliens arriving at the Port ...	12,100	6,306	104	1	—	—	—	—	—

UN SOUND SUGAR AND INEDIBLE ANIMAL FATS.

974 tons 11 cwts. 2 qrs. 24 lbs. of unsound sugar (loose-collected, sweep-ings, etc.) was dealt with during the year, and suitably disposed of to local Refiners for reconditioning.

49,706 packages of inedible animal fats were dealt with during the year, and suitably disposed of for industrial purposes.

Table showing the quantity and description of unsound meats utilised under supervision\* during the year 1948:—

DESCRIPTION.	TOTAL WEIGHT	CAUSE OF DESTRUCTION														
		Tuberculous.				Brine stained, mouldy and decomposed.										
		Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.			
Beef .....	48	2	1	25	—	—	—	—	36	10	3	18	11	11	2	7
Mutton .....	44	3	3	8	—	—	—	—	29	18	0	7	14	5	3	1
Pork .....	3	3	1	7	—	—	—	—	3	3	1	5	—	—	—	2
Veal .....	—	2	0	27	—	—	—	—	—	2	0	27	—	—	—	—
Total .....	95	11	3	11	—	—	—	—	69	14	2	1	25	17	1	10

\*These were destroyed or allowed to go for industrial purposes to the satisfaction of the Medical Officer.



Table showing the total quantities of the different unsound foodstuffs utilised under supervision during the year 1948:—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Beef, Mutton, Pork and Veal ... ..	95	11	3	11
Offal (Beef, Mutton, etc.) ... ..	15	6	0	10
Canned Goods ... ..	157	14	0	10
Fruit and Vegetables ... ..	971	10	2	6
Cereals ... ..	10,007	2	1	12
General (Fish, Poultry, Rabbits, etc.) ...	545	4	3	20
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	<b>11,792</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>

The following tables give the particulars of samples sent to the City Analyst and City Bacteriologist for examination during the year 1948:—

CITY ANALYST.			
Dehydrated Onion Powder	...	17	
„ Garlic Powder	...	2	
Carraway Seeds	...	1	
Canned Mandarines	...	1	
„ Melon and Lemon Jam	...	1	
		<u>22</u>	

CITY BACTERIOLOGIST.			
Canned Mandarines	...	...	2
			<u>2</u>

In addition, 366 samples of goat hair, buffalo hair, black drawn bristle hair and wool were submitted for examination.

The Port Health Authority is also engaged in the issue of certificates of disinfection for foreign governments and other purposes in connection with the exportation of hides, wool, jute sacks and cloth, tailors' cuttings, rags, second-hand bags and clothing, bales of cotton, etc.

The department also endorses under the United States, Canadian and other regulations, certificates regarding wholesomeness of food articles, and the sanitary condition of the premises in which the articles are produced or stored, comprising poultry, game, cheese, bacon, hams, potatoes, preserved fish, pickled beef, tongues, sausage skins, lime juice, etc.

The work attached to preparing and recording these certificates is considerable, and takes up a large amount of time of the department.

I desire to express my appreciation of the valuable assistance received from H.M. Collector of Customs and staff, the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board and their officers, and the various shipping companies who have co-operated with the Port Health Authority in the maintenance of Public Health and the prevention of disease in the port. The Consular Bodies have at all times given courteous assistance.

W. M. FRAZER,  
*Medical Officer of Health,*  
*Liverpool Port Health Authority*

